FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 APRIL 1986

Libya

Libya is "seriously" considering joining the Warsaw Pact because the U.S. air raids have made neutrality "useless" for a small country, Information Secretary Muhammad Sharaf al-Din al-Fayturi stated in a 27 April interview with AFP. The Soviet Union has invited Libya's foreign liaison secretary to visit Moscow, Tripoli television disclosed earlier. As for Soviet arms supplies, the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD* reported 26 April that Libya recently received new batteries of "improved" SAM-5's which are more accurate and have greater anti-jamming capability than the SAM-5's supplied to Libya before the U.S. raids, according to WAM. In the Soviet Union, a commentary in the 27 April edition of *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA* sharply denied Western reports that the USSR knew in advance of the U.S. attack but did nothing to prevent it.

In another development, the Foreign Liaison Bureau informed EEC ambassadors 26 April that Libya has "no option but to reciprocate" the measures adopted by EEC countries, Tripoli television reported. The Europeans were told that Libya sees no justification for the EEC measures and that Libya has "no links" with terrorism. Reporting the arrival in Tripoli of Libyan students expelled from the United Kingdom, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio accused the British Government of waging a "racist campaign" against Arabs in general and Libyans in particular.

On Libyan-Egyptian relations, MENA cited a 26 April Cairo *AL-AHRAM report that Egypt has given a "negative" reply to* a Libyan request that Egypt supply Libya with "huge quantities" of weapons. The request was reportedly made by a Libyan officer who visited Egypt 19-23 April. JANA subsequently claimed that high-level Egyptian "personalities" had secretly offered to give Libya weapons but they were "exposed" and subjected to "fierce hostility" from other Egyptian leaders. This is why the Egyptians publicized the topic, JANA contended, adding that they believed this would protect Egypt from U.S. "anger." An Egyptian source cited by MENA described JANA's report as "nonsense" and "ridiculous," asserting that JANA's director has "low standards and a sick mind."

Regarding relations with Tunisia, the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD* reported 27 April that Libya has asked PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to mediate between Libya and Tunisia in an attempt to secure the restoration of diplomatic relations, WAM noted. Meanwhile, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received a number of Palestinian leaders 27 April, Tripoli radio reported.

Arab Summit

The Arab League "officially" announced in Tunis 27 April that a preparatory meeting of Arab foreign ministers will be held in Fes 30 April to be followed by an emergency Arab summit conference in Fes 3 May, Abu Dhabi radio reported, noting that the preparatory meeting will draw up an agenda to include the U.S. "aggression" against Libya, although an AFP report asserted that there are "already signs of dispute" regarding what issue should top the agenda. According to KUNA, Syria, Libya, Algeria, the PDRY, and Sudan continue "to insist" that the conference should limit itself to discussing the U.S. "aggression" against Libya, while the remainder of Arab League member states favor a discussion encompassing "all aggressions against the Arab nation," including the Iran-Iraq war, and Israel's "repeated aggressions" against the Palestinians, Lebanese, and Syrians.

Syria

Israel wants to intimidate Syria and undermine its morale as a prelude to launching a "military aggression," President Hafiz al-Asad maintained in an interview with Soviet journalists carried by SANA 27 April. However, Syria is not afraid and is "prepared for an invasion," he added. Al-Asad strongly criticized U.S. international and Mideast policies, and he accused the United States of using its influence in Lebanon to prevent the implementation of the Syrian-sponsored tripartite agreement. He predicted, however, that Syria will eventually achieve reconciliation in Lebanon, warning that if the civil war is not ended through Syria's assistance, then "no one" will be able to end the war.

Meanwhile, Radio Monte Carlo reported that Al-Asad "postponed" an expected visit to Jordan, while TANJUG noted that the Syrian leader will visit Yugoslavia 28-30 April.

As for Syria's military capability, the UAE paper *AL-ITTIHAD* reported 26 April that Syria will begin receiving MiG-29 aircraft this summer, according to Abu Dhabi radio. A Syrian tank officer has told Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* that Syrian forces in Lebanon are on a high alert in preparation for a possible Israeli operation, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported, and eyewitnesses have seen Syrian vehicles carrying "long-range missiles" into Lebanon. At a 23 April reception for a visiting Austrian delegation, Defense Minister Mustafa Talas acknowledged that recent "terrorist" acts in northern Syria caused 73 casualties, *WIENER ZEITUNG* reported.

Israel

A British tourist was shot and killed in East Jerusalem 27 April, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that the police "suspect" the attack to be of a "terrorist nature."

In other developments, while acknowledging that "an agreement in principle" was worked out last year, Jerusalem sources nevertheless denied reports that Israel and Poland will exchange diplomatic representatives in May, adding that several details "remain to be clarified," according to Jerusalem radio. The

sources also affirmed that Israel and the Soviet Union are not engaged in contacts regarding the possibility of renewing diplomatic ties.

Further with regard to the two Israelis "detained" in Bermuda on suspicion of conspiring to smuggle U.S. arms to Iran, Jerusalem radio reported that the Israeli Embassy in the Dominican Republic has provided them with "aid," which sources at the Israeli Embassy in Washington asserted was "nothing exceptional."

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat arrived in Cairo 27 April, MENA reported, adding that the PLO chairman will hold "important" talks with Egyptian officials during his stay there.

In other developments, the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad conveyed an "important message" from the Soviet leadership to 'Arafat on recent Israeli military moves "in preparation for new aggression" against the Palestinian people, Baghdad Voice of PLO and Algiers Voice of Palestine reported, adding that the message simultaneously stressed the USSR's "firm support" for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their "sole and legitimate" representative. Meanwhile, TASS cited reports emanating from the United States that Israel, in "agreement" with the United States, "is preparing" to launch air and land attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon in the "near future."

Lebanon

Artillery exchanges across the Muslim-Christian contact lines 25 April killed 5 people and wounded 34 others, according to security sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. A hitherto unknown group claimed responsibility for a bomb explosion that damaged a British bank in West Beirut the following day, the radio noted.

Bahrain-Qatar: Territorial Dispute

Gulf shipping sources cited by Bahrain's *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported that both Qatar and Bahrain were making military preparations in the wake of Qatar's 26 April seizure of Fasht al-Dibal, one of the small islands between the two countries whose ownership is disputed. The paper's sources disclosed that Qatari soldiers occupied the island after landing from helicopters, capturing 29 men working for companies which were constructing a Bahraini Coast Guard station on Fasht al-Dibal. The Qataris reportedly fired at a Bahraini tugboat in the area.

The Qatari move followed Doha radio's announcement of an official Qatari declaration that Fasht al-Dibal was an "exclusion" zone as of 1000 GMT 26 April and that "those wanting to go to the area must keep out" until further notice. Doha radio did not, however, mention the Qatari move into the island, which was first announced by Cairo radio. In a subsequent development, Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan held talks with the Qatari amir in Doha and with the Bahraini amir in Manama 27 April, according to Doha and Manama radios. Neither radio mentioned the Qatari-Bahraini dispute in connection with his visit, but diplomatic sources cited by the *GULF DAILY NEWS* said there is little doubt that Saudi Arabia is acting as a mediator between the two countries. An Omani envoy left for Qatar and Bahrain the following day to "get acquainted" with the dispute between the two countries, according to Muscat radio.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that the Iraqi III Army Corps recaptured "considerable parts" of the southern Majnun oilfield in a "resolute lightning attack" 26 April, killing 1,950 Iranian troops and wounding "a large number." The Iranian command, however, stated that Iranian forces repulsed a "futile" Iraqi attack in the area, killing a "large number" of enemy troops, according to Tehran radio. As for the Al-Faw front, where Iran recently claimed successes, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses asserted that Iraq's VII Army Corps repelled four Iranian attacks 24 April, killing 460 enemy soldiers. The communique also stated that 1,100 Iranians were killed or wounded in the area the night of 19-20 April. A 27 April communique carried by the radio reported that Iraqi troops defeated three more Iranian attacks, though IRNA claimed that Iranian troops killed over 200 Iraqis in an attack that morning. The Iraqi communique also announced that Iraq's V Army Corps scored successes in the northern Sirawan-Mazin mountain area 25-27 April, killing "massive" numbers of enemy troops.

The Iraqi communiques reported that Iraqi planes raided Khark Island and hit two maritime targets in the Gulf over the weekend. *GULF DAILY NEWS said an Iranian tanker was set ablaze in* an "apparent" Exocet attack south of Bushehr 27 April. For Iran's part, communiques and reports cited by Tehran radio and IRNA announced Iranian air raids on Zobeydah 25 April and on targets in the Al-Faw sector 26-27 April.

Iranian Warning to United States

In a Friday sermon reported by IRNA, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned the United States against taking military action against Iran, asserting that "if you do such a thing, which of course you do not dare to, you will know the real meaning of terror." The Iranian Armed Forces will increase from several hundred thousand to "several million" if Iranians know they have to face a U.S. attack, he contended. The Iranian Navy commander subsequently told a Tehran paper that two U.S. warships are currently patrolling near the Strait of Hormuz, IRNA reported, and he disclosed that a U.S. cargo vessel was among the ships inspected by the Iranian Navy 25 April.

DRA

Karmal Whereabouts — Moscow radio broadcast a statement — although not specifying the date or venue — by PDPA General Secretary Babrak Karmal in which he extolled the achievements of the April Revolution which succeeded "8 years ago." In other anniversary-related reportage, Kabul radio carried a live relay of celebrations at Kabul's festival parade ground 27 April and noted the presence of various government and party officials, although not Karmal's. The sole reference to Karmal was made when the radio reported that some marchers were

carrying photographs of the PDPA leader. A TASS report on the festivities also did not refer to him. In other reportage, Karmal was not mentioned attending a 25 April PDPA Politburo session which heard a report by DRA Council of Ministers Chairman Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand on his recent visit to the USSR.

Mujahidin Fighting — An Afghan rebel leader claimed that Afghan guerrillas launched a counterattack against the joint DRA-Soviet forces' garrison and airbase in Khowst 22 April following the rebels' recapture of Zhawar base, the Tokyo KYODO news agency reported. The rebel leader asserted that the joint forces had "completely failed" in interrupting the guerrillas' supply lines. Nevertheless, DRA party and government leaders, including Keshtmand, on 25 April in Kabul welcomed Army units that had participated in "crushing a major nest" of rebels in Zhawar, according to Kabul radio.

Sudan

General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab announced the dissolution of the TMC and the Council of Ministers 26 April during the Constituent Assembly's inaugural session, SUNA reported, although noting that the Assembly entrusted the TMC and the Council of Ministers "to continue their constitutional obligations" until 6 May. Siwar al-Dhahab also emphasized the "need" to convene a national constitutional conference, which he viewed as the "sole solution" to the problems confronting Sudan. In related reportage, SPLM-SPLA sources revealed to the clandestine SPLA Radio that the movement "attaches great importance" to such a conference, and sees it as an "essential step" toward "peaceful and meaningful" change in Sudan. Meanwhile, an AFP report, citing a press statement issued in Addis Ababa following talks between the SPLM and a delegation of the Al-Ummah National Party, announced the SPLM's refusal to "recognize or participate" in any government formed on the basis of "partial" elections. The SPLM reaffirmed its adherence to the Koka Dam Declaration of 24 March agreed to between the SPLM and the National Alliance for Salvation in which the Al-Ummah Party was represented.

In a related development, a "top-level" official of the National Islamic Front professed that group's support for the National Unity Charter which calls for, among other things, the abolition of the Shari'ah laws, SUNA reported citing *AL-SAHAFAH*.

In action in the south, the SPLA captured the "strategically important" Army garrison in Ler in the Upper Nile 23 April following a month-long siege, and also took control of a town near Torit in Eastern Equatoria, according to SPLA radio reports.

YAR

The shooting of a U.S. Embassy employee 25 April was an "individual" act that does not entail any serious consequences, according to a YAR Interior Ministry spokesman cited by Kuwait radio.

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Reportage on Events Commemorating 8th National Day

Defense Minister Speaks at Parade

LD270646 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto and Dari 0412 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Speech by Major General Nazar Muhammad, defense minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, at the Kabul Festival Parade Grounds on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the April Revolution — live]

[Text] [Words indistinct] leaders, troops, NCO's, officers and generals, noble compatriots of revolutionary Afghanistan, toilers of all nationalities and tribes of our beloved, independent and free country, revolutionary Afghanistan, esteemed foreign guests and friends: On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, I congratulate you on this great festival, the eighth anniversary of the April National Democratic Revolution.

We celebrate this historic day this year under the conditions that our party, the PDPA, and [words indistinct] are engaged in a struggle toward the further strengthening and expansion of the social pillars of revolution in the light of the resolutions of the 16th and 17th plenums of the PDPA Central Committee. The PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and the DRA Government have concentrated on a new approach in the work of further expanding its social bases. Our people have achieved glittering successes in the socioeconomic development and defense of the homeland in the years of the revolution under the instruction of the PDPA and the selfless assistance from the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries.

The words of peace, friendship and mutual assistance with all the peoples are inscribed on the (?banner) of the April Revolution. A prominent position has been allocated to the work of peace and construction in thd DRA's first 5-Year Development Plan, 1986-1991 after the years of the gains of the April Revolution. [sentence as heard]

Our government has devoted its foreign policy efforts toward the political solution of the situations around Afghanistan. The revolutionary changes that have been taking place in the DRA have, however, aroused the wrath of international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism. They continue the undeclared war against our people and revolution. The counterrevolutionary bands have recently unleashed new designs with the direct support of U.S. imperialism in order to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in various parts of the country. They particularly violate the sacred Afghan soil in the country's (?southwest) region, which has belonged to the Pashtuns for centuries. The Afghan armed counterrevolutionary bands, as before, create obstacles on the path of peaceful [words indistinct] and cultural construction. They continue their savage ways in our sacred land, shed the blood of the innocent people, and perform inhuman deeds.

Despite all these difficult conditions, the PDPA and the DRA revolutionary state struggle to eliminate the economic and technical backwardness of the country and raise the material and cultural level of the people's lives. In order to implement peaceful plans, our people need peace. Therefore, one of our most important tasks is to (?continue) struggle against the counterrevolutionary bands and further strengthen and consolidate the Armed Forces. Due to the consistent attention of the PDPA Central Committee and the revolutionary state and the selfless assistance of the great Soviet Union, the Armed Forces have been equipped with very modern combat technology and weapons. The combat capability of all its ranks has been raised. The political knowledge and combat capability of the military officers and their professional combat skills are being advanced. The commanders and political workers have obtained experiences in directing and administering units and companies and successfully organizing their combat activities.

Our heroic people and their proud Armed Forces are inflicting crushing blows on the counterrevolution bands and (?reaction) of the region. We are confident that the enemies of the April Revolution have been and are being crushed. Victory is ours because we are in the right. The strong guarantee for our victories is the support given to the aspirations of the revolution by all true compatriots and the support of the great Soviet Union and other fraternal countries and progressive mankind for the just struggle of the people of Afghanistan.

The traditional friendship between the DRA and the Soviet Union confidently serves the progress of our country and the security of the DRA. The official visit by Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to the Soviet Union and his warm welcome is another (?example) of our friendship. The visit was very fruitful.

We completely support the peace proposals that have been put forward by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev. We strongly condemn the U.S. [words indistinct] violation against Libya.

Our heroic Armed Forces, on this auspicious day, assures the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and all freedom-loving people that the Armed Forces will, under the leadership of the PDPA Central Committee, further enhance its revolutionary awareness and combat capability for the very speedy elimination of the counterrevolutionary bands. The Armed Forces, NCO's and officers, are ready to accomplish with loyalty and pride the sacred duty of protecting the interests of the April Revolution and the independence and national sovereignty of the DRA.

May the eighth anniversary of the April Revolution be glorious! Long live the PDPA, the leading force of our society! Long live the toiling people of Afghanistan and thier heroic Armed Forces! Forward toward the prosperity of beloved and revolutionary Afghanistan.

Prisoners Pardoned

LD261748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Decree No 20 of the Revolutionary Council Presidium on the pardoning of prisoners on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the April Revolution, issued in Kabul on 24 April 1986]

[Text]On the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the glorious April Revolution and based on the DRA's humanitarian policy, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, in accordance with Article 43, Paragraph 6 of the DRA Basic Statutes, announces and ratifies the following:

Article 1. All those prisoners due to be released in 6 months or less are hereby pardoned and should be released;
Article 2. Those persons subject to Article 1 should be released between 28 April and 28 May 1986;
Article 3. Article 1 does not apply to the following prisoners:

A. Those convicted for committing terrorist and subversive action or for being members of the Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghanistan counterrevolutionary bands or Maoist groups;
B. Those convicts who have had their sentences reduced by earlier decrees.
Article 4. This decree is in force from the date of its ratification and will be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, President of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium

Leaders Greet Troops Returning From Khowst Fighting
LD252112 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The brave and courageous officers and men of the Armed Forces of our beloved country this morning successfully returned to Kabul after crushing a major nest of counterrevolutionaries in Zhawar region of Khowst Major District. They were warmly welcomed by party and government leaders and by representatives of the working people of Kabul city.

The courageous sons of the homeland have restored peace in Zhawar region of Khowst Major-District. This region, which is 3 km from the border of Pakistan, was the largest gathering center for the assistance of international imperialism — headed by U.S. imperialism. It was a region where modern weapons — made in the United States and other imperialist and reactionary countries — were stored for carrying out murder, assassination, and the shedding of blood of the country's women, children, and old people.

The operations of the heroic Armed Forces of the country in this so-called unconquerable region have again displayed to the world public that no reactionary and imperialist force can resist the courage of the Afghans and their invincible determination.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that the returning officers and men were welcomed by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Najibollah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Brigadier General Muhammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of defense; Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of Kabul City Party Committee; Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Major General Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and general head of the Army's political affairs; Major General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, minister of internal affairs; Muhammad Faruq Yaqubi, minister of state security; [words indistinct] delegation of the organs of the Armed Forces; representatives of the workers of Kabul City; several officers of the limited units of the friendly USSR in Afghanistan. They took part in a glorious meeting.

At the begining of this meeting, after the best wishes of these units and companies were conveyed to the party and government leadership by Brigadier General Abdul Ghafur, first assistant to the chief of staff of the DRA Armed Forces and general administrator of combat operations in Zhawar region, Minister of Defense Major General Nazar Muhammad spoke on behalf of the DRA Armed Forces. He presented best wishes and congratulations to the officers, NCO's and heroic men who had taken part in the combat operations in the major district of Khowst.

In his speech, the minister of defense said: The counterrevolutionaries who are enjoying the support and backing of regional reaction and international imperialism, have suffered a shameful defeat. The defense minister added that the victory in Khowst Major District is a serious warning to all bandits and those who are supporting these bandits. Victory in Khowst Major District proved the military superiority and ability of the commanders, the high military skill and courage of the troops, as well as the high morale of the personnel of our Armed Forces. He added that the source of this victory is the unity of the Army and people, and faithfulness to the aspirations of the April Revolution.

Brigadier General Abdul Ghafur, first assistant to the chief of the general staff of the DRA Armed Forces and general administrator of combat operations at the Khowst front, then presented a report on the combat operations of the Armed Forces in Khowst Major District. The report states: The country's Armed Forces, during the successful combat operations in Khowst, have completely destroyed the enemy in Khowst Major District and seized two major bases, including the Zhawar base which was completely destroyed. As a result of these operations our Armed Forces have seized as booty or partially destroyed a large amount of weapons and ammunition, vehicles and various land and air defense equipment. They have destroyed all defensive installations at the Zhawar base. The report adds that all units and large companies of the Army, Sarandoy, and state security have displayed heroism with high morale and military discipline.

The report continues: We, the personnel of the Armed Forces, assure the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Government — headed by the beloved leader of the people of Afghanistan, dear and esteemed Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council — that our Armed Forces are ready to safeguard with courage and firmness the gains of the April Revolution.

In conclusion Najibollah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, conveyed the profound gratitude and countless thanks of the PDPA Central Committee

to the officers and men of the Armed Forces, and said: The [words indistinct] actions and exciting epics of you, the heroes of the Armed Forces, in Khowst revealed that the emanicipating Army of our homeland has emerged from the masses of the people and the best and most earnest sons of the homeland have gathered in its ranks.

The recent operations have destroyed and wiped out the nests of the bandits trained by the U.S., British, Chinese, Pakistani, Egyptian, and Israeli instructors, where modern and up-to-date weapons made in the United States and other imperialist and reactionary countries for carrying out murder, assassination, and the shedding of blood of the women, children, and old people, were stored. It was an example of (?seizure) and regular combat in which you have displayed special combat initiative. These operations have revealed your combat skill. This is the cause of appreciation and praise by all the working people of our country. This example must be followed by all organs of the Armed Forces — including the military, Sarandoy, and the Ministry of State Security as a guide for others of their heroic duties.

SPA: Mujahidin Down 12 Fighters in Paktia Province

GF251556 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] London, 25 Apr (SPA) — The Afghan mujahidin have downed 12 fighter planes and helicopters in a recent major battle against the Soviet invading forces and the Afghan agent forces in Paktia Province. Afghan mujahidin sources have stated that 12,000 Soviet-DRA troops participated in the 18-day battle during which the mujahidin killed 319 soldiers. The sources added that the mujahidin have managed to repel the Soviet-DRA forces attack in Bargay, (Lina), (Manay), and (Kunda) regions in the province, and noted the martyrdom of 125 mujahidin and 200 wounded.

KYODO: Guerrilla Leader Claims Zhawar Recaptured

OW280046 Tokyo KYODO in English 0033 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Islamabad, April 27 KYODO — Afghan guerrillas have launched a counterattack on the garrison and airbase at Khowst used by Soviet-Afghan forces for recent attack on resistance Zhawar base in Paktia Province, bordering on Pakistan.

Guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar of the Hezb-e Islami group told newsmen in Peshawar Sunday that Afghan guerrillas recaptured Zhawar after suffering heavy casualties in Soviet-Afghan attacks on their headquarters there.

Hikmatyar said after re-entrenching themselves at Zhawar, the mujahidin guerrillas attacked the Khowst garrison and airbase last Tuesday. However, he gave no details.

The Afghan guerrilla leader said that before vacating the Zhawar base, the Soviet-Afghan force destroyed underground facilities there, and that the mujahidin had lost 115 killed and 250 wounded. He said, however, that guerrillas killed or captured 300 Afghan Government commandoes and downed 13 aircraft during the April 4-20 operation.

Hikmatyar said that the Soviet-Afghan force had completely failed to choke off supplies to the guerrillas, whom he added overran 14 military posts set up during the recent operation.

The 2,600 meter-high Marikandu Peak and adjacent pass which served as an artery for clandestine supplies to the resistance is under mujahidin control, he said.

The Afghan rebel leader said that all the Peshawar-based guerrilla groups had fully cooperated in the fight for Zhawar and had even exchanged weaponry in the Paktia fighting.

Bhagat Returns From Tripoli, New York Meetings

BK270302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] The six-member NAM [Nonaligned Movement] ministerial delegation has conveyed to the UN secretary general that it is the duty of the world body to restore peace in the Mediterranean. It should evolve concrete measures in consultation with Libya, the United States, and other concerned countries. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, on his return to New Delhi late last night from New York. He told All India Radio correspondent that the delegation met the UN secretary general and the president of the Security Council and handed over the communique passed at the NAM ministerial meeting in New Delhi condemning the U.S. bombing on Libya.

Mr Bhagat said the secretary general told him that peace talks had been initiated.

Referring to his meeting with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, Mr Bhagat said the Libyan leader expressed his country's deep gratitude to India and the nonaligned nations for their support and sympathy at its hour of crisis.

Scores U.S. Envoy's 'Outburst' in UNSC

BK271609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, has said that the U.S. representative's recent outburst at the Security Council against India and the Nonaligned Movement over Libya is regrettable.

Mr Bhagat, who returned to New Delhi last night from New York, said in an interview to Doordarsan [television] that India stands for peace and the Nonaligned Movement always stood against terrorism and aggression against any country. He said both Britain and the United States tried to isolate the issue of international terrorism from state terrorism.

Mr Bhagat, who headed a high-level nonaligned ministerial delegation to Tripoli, said that unprovoked bombing by the United States has left a (?foot) of debris and dead bodies. He described it as a terrific violence unleashed by the United States on Libya.

He added that the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, has already denied Tripoli's involvement in any terrorism.

Sees 'Growing Danger' in Dispute

BK250901 Delhi-ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Excerpt] External Affairs Minister B.R. Bhagat has said that the Security Council stands paralysed following the triple veto exercised by the United States, Britain, and France on the nonaligned resolution on Libya. He said there is a growing danger of renewed conflagration and a widening of the conflict. Bhagat was speaking at the council as it met for a resumed session to discuss American armed aggression against Libya.

The request for meeting was made to the president of the council on Wednesday by a non-aligned ministerial delegation headed by Mr Bhagat.

Continuing Reportage on Unrest Incidents in Punjab

2 Killed; 3 Injured

BK280912 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] In Punjab two persons were killed and three others injured in shooting incidents today.

The sitting Congress-I MLA [member of Legislative Assembly] from the Beas assembly constituency in Amritsar District, Mr Sant Singh, was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne terrorists at his native village Bithar this morning. Another person was seriously injured in the incident.

In another incident the Hindu Rashtriya Sangathan president, Mr Surinder Kumar Billa, escaped unhurt but his bodyguard, Pradeep Kumar, was killed on the spot and two others injured when about five car-borne terrorists sprayed bullets with sten guns in the crowded (Hall) bazaar in Amritsar this morning.

Meanwhile, the Punjab Congress-I in an emergency meeting at Chandigarh today condemned the killing of party MLA, Mr Sant Singh. A resolution adopted at the meeting presided over by the party chief, Mr Beant Singh, said that the failure to protect the life of political leaders is a reflection on the state government.

The meeting was attended among others by the Pradesh [State] Congress Committee-I president, Mr Beant Singh, and the leader of the Congress-I legislature party, Mr Gurbinder Kaur Brar.

Four Congress-I Leaders Suspended From Party

BK271558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] The former finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has been removed from the primary membership of the Congress-I for 6 years.

According to the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, the action against Mr Mukherjee follows (?some) acts calculated to what he called lower the prestige of the party.

Mr Moopanar, who announced the decision in New Delhi this evening, said that three other Congress-I leaders have been placed under suspension for indulging in antiparty activities. They are: the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Shripati Mishra; the former West Bengal governor, Mr A.P. Sharma; and the former Assam governor, Mr Prakash Mehrotra.

President on Islamic System, Foreign Relations

BK250609 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan is a zone of peace and stability in the whole region and it is the duty of every Pakistani to protect it from all internal and external dangers. He said this while addressing a seminar entitled "How Can Democracy Be Stabilized Under New Circumstances?" in Karachi yesterday evening. He also stressed the need for protecting the ideological frontiers of the country and said we can protect the stability of the country only through Islam.

The president said only an Islamic system of government will be successful in Pakistan. He said every class of the populace should try to make Pakistan a true citadel of Islam. He urged the political parties and political leaders to create a congenial atmosphere for promoting religious education. The president said women should educate and train their children to make them good Muslims and good Pakistanis. The future of Pakistan is in the hands of the younger generation and therefore, the responsibility of protecting our beloved country rests with them. This country is a precious gift of God to us.

The president said every country has to protect its own frontiers and, in view of Pakistan's being an ideological country and its regional importance, it is even more pertinent to Pakistan. He said that as an Islamic country, Pakistan is making continuous efforts to strengthen friendly relations with the countries of the region. Our relations with our great neighboring country China are extremely cordial and friendly. We are also making efforts to improve friendly relations with our other neighboring country, India.

The president assured the organizers of the seminar that the federal and provincial governments will extend every possible assistance to implement the recently set up Institute of Pakistani Affairs.

President: No Restriction on Political Process

BK251611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the current political process in the country will strengthen democracy, which the people desire. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon, he said that so long as the law of the land is being observed, there will be no restriction on this political process.

The president emphasized that the representatives of the people are elected at the polls and not through meetings and processions. The present representatives were chosen by the people in the elections last year. In those elections, 63 percent voters voted in the National Assembly elections and 67 percent in the provicial assembly elections. Hence, these representatives should complete their terms until 1990. Every individual will be allowed to participate in new elections when they are held.

Replying to a question, the president said the current political situation in the country will become normal with the passage of time.

Two Killed During Student Clash in Larkhana 25 Apr

BK260348 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] A press note issued by the Larkhana District magistrate says two groups of students — Saint Peter Student Federation and (Jaysind) Students Federation — from (Chanka) medical college and the government degree college in Larkhana exchanged blows at about 2040 on Thursday [24 April]. Later they exchanged fire. However, the firing was halted due to the intervention of the college authorities and the district administration.

Again at noon on Friday these groups exchanged fire resulting in the death of two persons, one a student from (Chanka) medical college. The three injured — two of them students — were hospitalized and their condition is said to be out of danger.

The police have registered a report and have arrested seven persons so far. Three of them are not students but were arrested on the college campus. Security measures have been tightened and the situation is under control.

Afghan Mujahidin Recapture Paktia Positions

BK251533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have recently thwarted Soviet-Karmal forces' attack on their positions in Paktia Province. The attacking forces had to retreat toward Khowst after facing stiff resistance. The mujahidin reportedly inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet-Karmal forces and recaptured the Zhawar, Lazhah, and (Bardoi) areas.

Destroy Helicopters in Balkh

BK270229 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Mujahidin destroyed two helicopters of the Soviet-Karmal troops on the runway of Mazar-e Sharif airport in Balkh Province of Afghanistan. During the action the headquarters of the 18th Karmal Division was also damaged. Fourteen Karmal troops were killed and many others injured.

BANGLADESH

Indian Guards Cross Border, Shoot Villager 26 Apr

BK280945 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] Dhaka, April 28 (AFP) — Indian border guards shot dead a Bangladeshi villager and injured six after crossing into Bangladeshi territory, press reports said here Monday. "Miscreants under cover" of India's border security forces (BSF) opened fire on unarmed villagers at Totarpara and Munshiganj villages near Bangladesh's western border with India Saturday after crossing into Bangladesh territory, the reports said. One person died and six were injured in the indiscriminate shooting, the press reports added.

Officials in the Bangladesh town of Kusthia had arranged a meeting between border guards from both sides Monday to try and defuse tensions.

SRI LANKA

Police Investigate Alleged Sabotage in Dam Collapse

BK280713 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, April 28 (AFP) — Sri Lankan police are investigating the possibility of sabotage involving explosives in the dam burst that killed at least 64 people last week. Police Chief Cyril Herath told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that President Junius Jayewardene had ordered a probe into the claim that a bag possibly containing explosives was seen near the sluice gate where the Kantalai Dam burst April 20. The water flow swamped several villages, killing at least 64. Another 53 are reported missing. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is examining the claim, and informed sources said that such a bag had not been found. It was not stated who had made the claim.

The government also is to ask India to allow Sri Lankan police to question the Eelam Revolutionary Communist Party (ERCP), a previously unknown Tamil separatist group which claimed in a statement in southern India that it had sabotaged the dam, official sources said.

Navy Destroys Boat of India-Trained 'Terrorists'

BK271139 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GTM 27 Apr 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan Navy has destroyed a boat carrying 14 terrorists from India to Sri Lanka. Three of the terrorists who were captured have revealed that they were returning after 10 months of training at TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] camp at Salem in Tamil Nadu. The commander of the group, named Rajah, who had been killed by the security forces, had received his training in Uttar Pradesh in India. The fiberglass boat in which the terrorists were traveling was fitted with 355-horse power engine. A large stock of weapons was recovered by the security forces. LANKA PUWATH reports that a Navy patrol has also captured about 18 terrorists on two [words indistinct] of Talaimannar on Thursday [24 April]. The terrorists were taking contraband and a motorcycle to India.

Terrorists have killed a [words indistinct] woman who ran a shop at Trincomalee. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that a gang of armed terrorists had abducted A. Manomani, aged 34, from her shop last Thursday. The next morning, she was found brutally murdered and tied to the third milepost on the Trincomalee-Nilaveli Road.

Five armed terrorists had robbed nearly 110,000 rupees from the Bank of Ceylon branch at Vavuniya. However, security sources said that the terrorists had dropped half the money while they were fleeing.

Further Details

BK281137 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Apr 86

[Text] A Sri Lankan Navy patrol yesterday killed six terrorists on the high seas within the territorial waters of Sri Lanka. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the incident followed an encounter by the Navy and the terrorists on the seas of Point Pedro and Valvettiturai. Packages which were in the boat wrapped in polythene were found floating in the seas and were recovered by Navy personnel. They were found to contain explosives, medicines personally addressed to the LTTE [Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam] leader in Jaffna, six G-3 rifles and two mounted machineguns.

State of Emergency Extended by One Month

BK261135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] The extension of the state of emergency by a further month was approved by a two-third majority in Parliament last evening — 125 members voted in favor of the motion, while the member for Kalawana, Sarath Muttetuwegama, voted against. Members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party abstained.

Winding up the debate on the motion, Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali said (?objectives of) terrorist organizations aimed at setting up a Marxist government in Sri Lanka, while some other groups are motivated by a mixture of Marxism and communalism. The minister explained that he was only referring to the hardline Marxists and not to the Communist Party in Sri Lanka. He disclosed that 50 individuals, who have had dealings with Marxist-oriented organizations, were recently taken in to custody. Interrogation of the suspects who belonged a new arm of JVP [Jatiya Vimukti Peramuna] had revealed plans for a major attack next month. However, the minister noted that prompt action by government had preempted their plans.

The leader of the opposition, Anura Bandaranaike, alleged that the government had failed to control the growing acts of terrorism and that effectiveness of the Armed Forces had been reduced. Mr Bandaranaike added that there were signs of a military or political solution to the ethnic problem.

Tehran Arabic Reports Qatari 'Attack' on Island

GF271126 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Well-informed sources in the Bahraini capital, Manama, announced today that four helicopters of the Qatari Air Force attacked the small island of Fasht al-Dibal which lies east of Bahrain. According to an AFP report from Manama, the well-informed sources said that the attack resulted in the injury of a number of experts and workers of the Netherlands company that was constructing a military guard post for the Bahraini Army.

Qatar is opposed to Bahraini sovereignty over Fasht al-Dibal and the Hawar Islands. The islands of Fasht al-Dibal are 20 km east of Bahrain and 20-24 km northeast of Qatar.

The well-informed sources said that the attack on the island of Fasht al-Dibal follows the declaration [by Qatar] of the area as an exclusion zone as of 1000 GMT on 26 April. The report adds that Saudi Arabia has made efforts to prevent the deterioration of relations between Bahrain and Qatar, both of which have been engaged in a dispute over the islands for many years.

Qatar Arrests 29

GF271841 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Recent reports from south of the Persian Gulf transmitted by certain diplomatic sources in the region reported that Qatar has arrested 29 foreign experts and workers during its attack on Fasht al-Dibal Island and transported them to Qatari territories. It was reported that 26 of the arrested are Filipinos, 2 are British, and 1 Indian. Reuter reported that a Bahraini tugboat was attacked by Qatari Army helicopters at a time when the Qatar and Bahrain Governments have still not commented on this incident.

Khamene'i Sends Kuwaiti Amir Message on U.S. Raid

LD261713 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Kuwait, April 26, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a written message to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah Saturday, reiterated that Iran and Kuwait should take a joint serious measure against barbaric U.S. aggression against Libya.

The president's message was handed to Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah by Iranian charge d'affaires to Kuwait Mohammad Reza Baqeri here Saturday.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Departing Karbala' Marchers

LD271139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Four divisions of Gilan Province combatants, called the fourth Karbala' marchers, left for the battlefronts after assembling in front of the Majlis and being addressed by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council. They were seen off by Majlis deputies while chanting: Death to America! Death to Saddam! War, war until victory!

In his speech, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: This momentous change which has taken place in our people, enabling them to volunteer for the battlefronts for the sake of God, religion, the revolution, the implementation of the imam's decree and in defense of Islam, is a highly significant phenomenon in history.

Referring to plots hatched by the enemies of Islam to uproot religion and its precepts in Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces and citing the departure of Labbayk ya Imam [We respond to thee, O Imam] convoys from these two provinces, he said: This signifies the depth of Islam and the morality among these pure-hearted and faithful people -- the people who have proved that the genuineness of Islam among the people is far greater than the influence that the enemies of Islam are trying to impose on us. Accurate information available to us shows that the departure of Labbayk ya Imam convoys as well as the fighting forces has created serious instability in our enemies.

The increasing number of desertions from the Iraqi Army as well as the existing instability witnessed in the Iraqi leadership and the Ba'th Party gives us hope of bringing this war to the point where we will be able to overthrow this jingoistic individual [Saddam Husayn] and remove his ominous presence from the region, particularly from the two nations of Iran and Iraq.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then added: Today, both enemies and friends admit that the misleading propaganda about Iraq's military might is not true; Iraq is unstable. Under such circumstances, your presence at the fronts will have a devastating effect on the enemy. We hope that your preparedness will have an effective influence and, before we resort to further unwanted actions, they will repent and submit to righteousness, thus leaving the two nations of Iran and Iraq alone. Otherwise, we expect you to teach a lesson to the Iraqi Ba'thists which will serve as a historical lesson to other regimes contemplating aggression.

Lebanese Clergy: Renewed U.S. Attack Imminent

LD251925 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] On the happy occasion of the anniversary of the Imam of the Age, may God hasten his lofty advent, the Assembly of Lebanese Muslims' Ulema, in a statement expressing congratulations on this great occasion to the Muslims and the meek of the world, called for the expansion of crusading struggles against world arrogance and exploitation.

In this statement, reference also was made to the possibility of renewed attack by the United States on Lebanon. Information received shows that the United States is about to subject Muslim populated quarters in Beirut to aggression, using some pretext. The Assembly of Lebanese Muslims' Ulema has stressed the need for greater unity among Muslims in confronting the expansionist plans of the United States, and considers that the latest actions of Phalangist forces with regard to the establishment of a new airport in East Beirut and the transfer of the assets of the

Central Bank of Lebanon to Christian inhabited areas, is a project formulated by the Phalangists to partition Lebanese territory.

U.S. Statement on Mistreatment of POW's Rejected

LD260758 Tehran IRNA in English 0337 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Saturday rejected recent statements of the U.S. State Department alleging Iran of mistreatment of Iraqi POW's in Iran. The spokesman said that Friday's statements of the U.S. State Department, based on an interview with an Iraqi soldier in Washington, showed that other stances of the U.S. were taken in a similar undocumented manner and merely aimed at creating propaganda controversy.

No one under any circumstances could accept such allegations by the U.S. State Department against a revolution, based on accusations made by an Iraqi soldier under the pressure of the Baghdad regime, the WIH spokesman added. Such a hasty statement, the spokesman stressed, was the best proof to the U.S. support for the Iraqi regime in its imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, he said, the visit of a Red Cross delegation to Iran had nothing to do with the U.S. State Department, adding that Iran did not oppose activities of the Red Cross provided that it would prove its impartiality in the Iraqi-imposed war.

The U.S. State Department, following the allegation of an Iraqi soldier, Friday claimed that Iraqi POW's in Iran lived under undesireable conditions and called on Iran to allow a Red Cross team to visit the Iraqi POW camps.

The spokesman said that the U.S. made such "baseless fabrications" at a time when majority of people throughout the world have recognized it as a terrorist and anti-humanistic government.

He stressed that Iraqi POW's in Iran were in the most suitable conditions and similar allegations in the past have proved false after inspection of the camps by U.N. fact-finding mission. [Words indistinct] added, the U.N. team has described conditions of the Iranian POW's in Iraq as deplorable, the spokesman said. He noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran would soon release documents on showing unpleasant conditions of Iranian POW's in Iraq.

Accusations Part of 'Undeclared War'

LD271451 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Station commentary titled: "The Propaganda Strategems of Washington Directed Against the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] The terrorist state of the United States, following the poisonous propoganda climate that it has created and directed against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in yet another contemptable move, has claimed that Iraqi POW's in Iran are being mistreated. Washington's new propoganda stratagem which has appeared on the scene at the same time as that country's malicious propoganda waves against the Islamic Republic of Iran is another sign of Reagan's base desires.

The recent allegations by the State Department spokesman can be analyzed and examined from two standpoints: first, from the limited aspect of the POW's conditions and its background; and second, the extensive moves that Reagan's terrorist state is making against the Islamic Republic of Iran. But, in connection with the POW's themselves, the real issue is that the deployment of chemical weapons and the attack on civilians -- such as the downing of a passenger airliner and other war crimes -- has exposed the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime to world public opinion and turned it into an object of contempt.

The United Nations also, in its researched report on the war regions, stated that Iraq has been using chemical weapons, and this same report became the basis of a statement issued a while ago by the UN Security Council concerning the deployment of chemical weapons. In this statement the Iraqi regime was condemned by name. This removed any doubts or uncertainties that may have existed regardingthe war crimes of the Baghdad government, to the point that various governments and world bodies had to condemn the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime.

In these circumstances, the Iraqi regime, thanks to Washington's cooperation and collaboration, planned a new propoganda move and began to implement it. It sent three released Iraqi POW's -- among hundreds who have up to now been released and returned to Iraq thanks to the Iran's humanitarian measures in freeing disabled POW's -- to the United States, Europe, and Canada, so that through the cooperation of Iraqi Embassies in these countries, and through the collaboration of Radio America [VOA], the BBC, and the radio of the Zionist regime, it could embark on a poisonous propoganda wave against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These three persons who are agents of the 'Aflaqi Iraqi regime, or who are at least under pressure from this regime, on arriving in Washington 3 weeks ago were interviewed by VOA in the Iraqi Embassy there and told clumsy stories about the so-called unpleasant conditions of the Iraqi POW's in Iran. What is interesting is that one of these three men in his interview admitted that the sole aim of their trip was publicity and to draw world attention to what he termed "the inhuman conditions found in the camps."

But the present poisonous propoganda from Iraq and the West against the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the so-called bad conditions of the POW's, cannot pose as a credible argument. Other motives may be found beyond these adventures. For instance, they intend to use these stratagies to cover the Iraqi crimes, to camouflage them, to create confusion over future crimes of that regime.

But the second reason for the allegations by the State Department spokesman is worth studying. Washington's conspiracies are against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The U.S. Government, with the collaboration of its regional servants, has entered into an undeclared war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. From an economic aspect, the question of oil and the plot to reduce prices are aimed directly against our country. Within the political arena, Washington's provocation in world forums and on a

regional level is undeniable bullying; and from the propoganda point of view, Washington tries to manipulate world public opinion against us through different propoganda channels and to prepare the ground for its potential adventures.

If we were to juxtapose Washington's malicious propoganda with the threats issued by that country against the Islamic Republic of Iran, there would be no doubts at all that Washington has embarked on an undeclared war against the Islamic Republic which, in its later stages, could appear in the form of terrorist acts against the Islamic Republic of Iran. If it believes that it can make our Muslim nation surrender to its own needs and desires, is gravely mistaken. In a potential war with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Washington will experience a devastating defeat.

Naval Commander Warns U.S. Ships in Persian Gulf

LD261330 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA — Iran's Navy commander Captain Hoseyn Malekzadegan Saturday announced that U.S. warship *David R. Ray* has joined American missile launcher *Benjamin* in the Persian Gulf. In an interview with daily *ETTE LA'AT* here, Capt Malekzadegan said the two ships have been patrolling near the Strait of Hormuz for the past 48 hours.

Navy commander said Iran had warned the two ships that in case they violate Iranian territorial waters, they will be firmly faced by the Navy. No provocative moves have so far been observed on the part of the U.S. ships, the captain said, and they had been watching Iranian inspection of suspicious vessels. Since last summer Iran has been inspecting ships passing the Persian Gulf and seizing cargo destined for Iraq.

According to Malekzadegan, Iranian Navy inspected two ships on Friday: New Zealand-flag *Mavash Itabuke* and U.S-flag *Ingenious*. The ships set sail once it was known they carried no Iraqi-bound goods. Malekzadegan noted that naval units of the Islamic Republic are stationed in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea guarding the territorial waters.

Joint Staff Command Chief Announces New Border Units

LD261232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Following the approval of the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, Mr Khamene'i, and after the remarks of the Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defense Council which he delivered in yesterday's Friday prayer sermons in Tehran, the chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in an interview with reporters, declared: In order to increase the combat power of segments of the people and to enable the divisions to deliver new blows to the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime's army, the project for creating Qa'em [reference to 12th Shi'i Imam Qa'em, the Hidden Imam] border defense units by the regional Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, will sonn be implemented.

The spokesman of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] added: In order to carry out this project, all necessary cooperation will be provided by the War Support Headquarters of the provinces that were set up recently at the request of the eminent Imam Khomeyni and which consist of the imam's representative in the provinces, the Friday prayer leaders of provincial and district centers, governors, officials of the Reconstruction Jihad, and other local officials. These border defense units will make use of and employ honorary and specialized guard forces of organs, government departments, and various guilds.

The chief of the Joint Staff Command and spokesman of the IRGC added: Thanks to divine grace and relying on the assistance of the bountiful name of the holy Imam Mahdi — may God hasten his lofty advent — this project will fulfill the responsibility of defending the borders of the country from any kind of external plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran's system. All brothers who wish to cooperate with the Qa'em border defense units can declare their preparedness by completing the forms of Labbayk ya Imam which specify the conditions pertaining to the volunteer forces serving on and behind the battlefronts, and which will be published in newspapers with a large circulation tomorrow.

In connection with supplies and logistics of the Qa'em border defense units, he stated: The IRGC has always received materialand spiritual help from the people in the execution of its assignments, and as regards the implementation of the project for the Qa'em border defense units too, facilities provided by organs, government departments, and different guilds will be used in order to secure the supplies for these forces.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Helicopter Downed

LD251657 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. has issued a statement which reads that the combatants of Islam, continuing their glorious victories in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector, executed heavy fire on enemy positions, destroying a large amount of their equipment and killing a large number of troops of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Saddam.

This afternoon one helicopter gunship belonging to the Ba'thist-Zionist Army of Iraq was downed by ground forces' defense unit fire of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The helicopter and its crew fell into the waters of Khawr 'Abd Allah.

During the past week, the number of enemy helicopters downed in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector totals four, thanks to the self-sacrificing ground forces' defense units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Communique No 2,451

LD251823 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 25 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA — Islamic Republic of Iran jet fighters heavy bombarded Iraqi positions and concentration sites

in Zobeydah operational region at 05:50 hours local time (02:20 GMT) Friday [25 April] inflicting considerable damage on enemy. The jet fighters returned safely to their bases, according to a military communique, here Friday.

The Communique Number 2451 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Muslim ground forces of Iran have achieved their tactical goals in annihilating the aggressor Iraqi forces in Sayyid Khan operational region. In the clashes in the region which began several days ago heavy artillery fire has been exchanged between the warring forces, while enemy positions sustained blows from heavy Iranian air strikes, the communique added. In Haj 'Umran operational region, the Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted substantial casualties and losses on the enemy while heavily shelling Iraqi positions and fortifications, the Joint Staff reports.

In the Western fronts, the communique says, the Iranian Muslim forces checked and repulsed enemy movements, while in Qasr-e Shirin Iraqi troops were forced to retreat with heavy casualties and damage as a result of Iranian fire. The communique further says that an Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate the defense positions of the Iranian forces in Mehran region was heavily shelled and forced to flee.

Tens of Iraqi troops were killed and wounded Thursday when their positions were hit and set ablaze as a result of Iranian fire, the communique says. It says that the enemy's oil installations in economic centers in Iraqi towhships of Banmil and Naft Khaneh were pounded over the past twenty-four hours.

In southern war fronts, Iraqi forces were prevented from resupplying and strengthening their forces in Yebis region and in Nahr-Anbar the Muslim forces of Iran opened fire on Iraqi patrol units forcing them to flee, the communique says.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province, was subjected to long-range artillery fire of the enemy. Some 20 houses and shops as well as other spots of the city were damaged.

Fighters Bomb Al-Faw-Basra Axis

GF260500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Unnumbered communique issued by Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters on 26 April]

[Text] The brave warriors of the Army of Islam, in continuation of their shining victories in the "Val-Fajr-8" theater of operations, are creating epics through their unexplainable resistance.

The high-flying pilots of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a lightning raid early this morning with fighter-bombers against the positions of the defeated Iraqi Army on the strategic Al-Faw-Basra axis. A large number of enemy positions and equipment were set on fire and destroyed.

As a result of the propaganda and guidance activities of the capable forces of the Army of Islam in areas of contact, yesterday and last night another group of the aggressor enemy forces in the area came to realize the decadent nature of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Saddam and sought refuge in the pure bosom of dear Islam and the Islamic revolution.

Iraqis Near Majnun Island 'Quashed'

LD261728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reports that this morning following the enemy's repeated defeats in "Val-Fajr-8" operational areas, the Iraqi Army embarked on a futile move in the operational area of the southern Majnun Island. But the alertness and intense fire of the combatants of Islam quashed the efforts of the Zionist enemy, and a large number of their soldiers were killed. In addition to the destruction of a considerable quantity of their equipment, three soldiers were captured by the combatants of Islam.

Communique No 2,452

LD261803 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 26 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA — Two commercial ships were stopped Friday in the Strait of Hormuz by naval units of the Islamic Republic, but were released to continue their voyage when no Iraqi bound goods were discovered aboard them according to a military communique, here Saturday.

In its Communique Number 2452, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Muslim Combatants of Iran defended their positions in the northwestern operational regions where they exchanged artillery fire and heavy weapons fire, over the past 24 hours. It added that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed in the said region and their infantry and weaponry positions were demolished.

In the western fronts, Iranian Muslim fighters shelled Iraqi positions in Sumar, Halaleh, Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin demolishing several bunkers of theirs well as two munition depots, killing or wounding more than 30 Iraqi soldiers, the communique says.

Iraqi economic centers and industrial installations in Naft Khaneh and [words indistinct] long-range artillery fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants, it added.

The communique says that exchange of fire continued in southern regions, being more intense in Sharhani, Kushk and [words indistinct] the enemy's motorized movements and engineering operations were checked, and casualties and damage inflicted on them.

Iran's gendarmerie forces defended their postiions in Qasr-e Shirin front where they silenced Iraqi fire and severely restricted engineering efforts of the enemy. More than 10 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded, the communique says.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was subjected to long-range artillery fire of the enemy as a result of which twelve houses [words indistinct]

Iraqi Positions in Al-Faw-Umm Qasr Bombed
GF270928 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] At 0530 [0200 GMT] today the heroes of our Air Force bombed the positions, equipment, and troops of the Ba'thist-Saddamist enemy in the Al-Faw-Umm Qasr sector. This was reported in a statement issued by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces.

The statement added that our courageous eagles inflicted severe losses and damage on the troops and equipment of the enemy. Columns of smoke and fire were seen rising from the enemy's positions for many hours in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations area.

Further Details
LD270950 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA — The Iranian fighter-bombers, in a successful operation early Sunday morning, pounded enemy positions and fortification in Al-Faw-Umm Qasr axis, Al-Faw region, a Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters statement said.

In this operation the Islamic Forces of Iran inflicted heavy casualties and damages on Iraqi forces. The area is filled by the smoke of the burning Iraqi munition, added the statement.

The Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed positions, fortifications and concentration centers of Iraqi forces in Al-Faw region at 05:25 and 10:00 (01:55 and 06:30 GMT) Sunday, said the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces.

The command said the Iranian fighters after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the Iraqi forces all returned to their bases safely. Vast parts of enemy positions were set ablaze after the Iranian air raid, the Joint Staff said.

Al-Faw-Al-Bihar Road, Majnun Islands
LD271125 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Report by Central News Unit correspondent in Ahvaz]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. Once again at 1000 this morning, our brave pilots, flying a number of fighter-bombers, attacked concentrations of Iraqi personnel and material along the Al-Faw-Al-Bihar road, south of Al-Bihar base, and inflicted heavy damage and casualties on material and personnel.

Early this morning today, the anti-blasphemy forces of Islam, mounting a destruction offensive, attacked the moribund enemy in southern Majnun Island and dealt pounding blows on the Ba'thist Army of Iraq.

In the course of this limited offensive, two enemy boats and the personnel aboard were set ablaze. Also, a number of machineguns, the personnel manning them, and a number of heavy and light mortar-launchers were destroyed leaving a number of Iraqi dead and injured.

Communique No 2,453
LD271628 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 27 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded positions, fortifications and concentration sites of Iraqi forces in Al-Faw region at 01:55 and 06:30 GMT Sunday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them and setting fire to vast parts of their positions. The Iranian fighters after successfully carrying out the missions all returned to their bases safely, according to a military communique here Sunday.

The communique said Iranian naval forces inspected six commercial ships and two oil tankers which were sailing under various foreign flags around the Hormuz Strait Saturday but allowed them to continue on their way after being satisfied that they were not carrying any Iraqi-bound goods.

Communique Number 2453 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued in the western fronts, raging somewhat more heavily in the Majnun Islands and Sharhani.

In Nahr-Anbar, Yebis and Faqqeh artillery fire of Muslim forces of Iran halted or disrupted most engineering operations and movements of Iraqi motorized and armoured units.

In fighting which erupted in the Majnun Islands early Friday Iranian Muslim combatants maintained the upper hand and prevented enemy troops from carrying out any operation, said the communique.

In the western fronts, the communique said, Islamic forces of Iran inflicted considerable casualties and damage on Iraqi forces with their crew were demolished.

Muslim forces of Iran checked engineering operations and movements of Iraqi motorized columns in Qasr-e Shirin, Halaleh and Sumar and elsewhere in Sayyid Khan in the northwestern fronts, they pounded Iraqi infantry according to the communique.

In Haj 'Umran, in the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian Muslim troops exchanged heavy artillery fire with Iraqi forces and their anti-aircraft units repulsed Iraqi warplanes which had violated the airspace of the area. Iranian patrol units carried out successful (?missions) and all returned to their bases safely.

Iraqi long range artillery fire on Abadan in Khuzestan Province Friday damaged 20 houses and shops.